

For Immediate Release

Maiden Lane Exhibition Space
125 Maiden Lane
New York City, NY 10038
Open daily from 9 am – 6 pm

Barbara Edelstein & Jian-Jun Zhang
Garden of Wishing Trees
Curated by Elisabeth Akkerman
February 24 – May 12, 2005

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 24, 2005 5:00 – 7:30 pm

The Maiden Lane Exhibition Space is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition of

Barbara Edelstein & Jian-Jun Zhang: Garden of Wishing Trees

Barbara Edelstein and Jian-Jun Zhang shared interest in the relationship of nature, mankind and culture brought them together to draw inspiration from myths of wishing trees. The 6.5 ft and 7.5 ft tall trees are made of resin set within Plexiglas boxes full of clear water. Each of the fifteen trees branches out to hold leaves from dissimilar plants. The installation was shown first at The Fifth Gwangju Biennale in Korea in 2004.

Yi-Chen Zhang wrote about the collaboration: One of nature's finest and arguably most humbling displays is a cotyledon – the sprouting leaflets that tremble under the fierceness of the atmospheres, and, at the same time, possess a surprising resilience that bespeaks of a life form teeming with potential, with hopes and dreams. Wishing trees, as they are called, have been represented by grand mythologies and folklores of distinctive localities as entities from which hope springs, from which wishes of the supplicants are granted. They are indeed an oasis of idealism and aspirations – of things that could be – in the vast expanse of realism that often stifle the spiritual side of mankind. The cotyledons of our young “Wishing Trees” grow out of clear water that at once assumes a stillness and reflection associated with the clarity of thought, and displays the gentle movements reminiscent of the rhythm of nature – the ebb and flow of life, death, and rebirth – creating a sense of renewal that embodies the spirit of humanity. The two leaves on each tree are shaped differently to represent the diversity in origin, and form a harmonic fusion of cultures in this garden of light that harbors the collective hopes of the human race, untainted by the limitations imposed by reality. The audience is requested to take a Leaf Poster with them, write their own wishes on the left-side leaf, take a photo, and send it to the artists. Their individual wish will contribute to a collection of all the participants' wishes to produce a continuation of this sculpture, an extension which adds to the richness of humanity's dreams. We should hope that their wishes, like the Leaf Posters that will disperse across the globe, will grow just as vividly as befits the spirit of nature.”

Barbara Edelstein & Jian-Jun Zhang: Garden of Wishing Trees is curated by Elisabeth Akkerman, curator of The Francis J. Greenburger Collection, New York.

The exhibition is made possible with the generous support of **Time Equities, Inc.**

The Maiden Lane Exhibition Space was inaugurated in 2000 to connect the building to the contemporary art scene of New York City and provide a site for different artists to show their work. A series of three to four exhibitions will be installed each year featuring the works of various contemporary artists. Some of the past solo exhibitions included Sol LeWitt, Erwin Redl, Jon Isherwood, Alain Kirili, Christopher Kurtz and Tadashi Hashimoto.

For further information please call 1-212-206 6061 or send an e-mail to greenburgercollection@timeequities.com.